

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 11 – 15;

Please cancel Claims 4, 7, and 18 – 20; and

Please add new Claims 21 - 25, as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A foldable reading stand for supporting a book or other object, the stand having a ~~closed~~ flat collapsed configuration ~~as a flat panel for storage,~~ and an set-up operational configuration for holding an object in an inclined position ~~when unfolded~~, said stand comprising:

a panel having a front surface for holding an object in an inclined position, a rear surface, and right and left side outer edges;

a shelf connected to said panel and pivotal to a ~~closed~~ flat position parallel to said panel, when the stand is in said flat collapsed configuration, and to an ~~operational~~ set-up position at an angle to the front surface of the panel, when the stand is in said set-up configuration, wherein the shelf in the ~~operational~~ set-up position is adapted to support said object in the inclined position on the panel; and

~~two~~ right and left support members pivotal connected to the rear surface of the panel near the said right and left side outer edges, respectively, ~~and adapted so that,~~ when in the operational configuration, the right and left support members being pivotal on a first pivot axis and a second pivot axis, respectively, to fold flat against said panel when the stand is in the flat collapsed configuration, and to pivot away from each other, when the stand is in the set-up configuration, to extend rearward from the panel and diverge from each other to support the panel in an inclined position, and wherein front portions of the right and left support members extend underneath the shelf to hold the shelf in said operational set-up position; and,

wherein ~~each of said two~~ said first pivot axis ~~support members is pivotally attached to the rear surface of the panel by a support member hinge that is at an angle ranging from 5 – 25 degrees relative to a respective one of said right and left side outer edges of said panel,~~ and wherein said second pivot axis is at an angle ranging from 5 – 25 degrees relative to said left side outer edge of said panel.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The stand of claim 1, wherein said right and left support members are vertical when the stand is in the operational set-up configuration.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The stand of claim 1, wherein said shelf comprises a right groove and a left plurality of grooves, and wherein said front portions of the right support members each comprises a first tab adapted to be frictionally received in said right grooves to secure the right support members to the shelf in the operational configuration, when the shelf is in the set-up position and the stand is in the set-up configuration, and wherein said front portion of the right support member further has a second tab frictionally received in said right groove to secure the shelf to the right support member and retain the shelf parallel to the right support member, when the shelf is in the collapsed position and the stand is in the flat collapsed configuration.

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6. (Currently Amended) The stand of claim 54, wherein ~~said shelf comprises a plurality of grooves, and said front portion of the left support members each comprises a protruding snap adapted to be~~ first tab frictionally received in said left grooves to secure the left support members to the shelf, when the shelf is in the set-up position and the stand is in the set-up configuration, and wherein said front portion of the left support member further has a second tab frictionally received in said left groove to secure the shelf to the left support member and retain the shelf parallel to the left support member, when the shelf is in the collapsed position and the stand is in the flat collapsed configuration ~~when the shelf and support members are pivoted to be parallel to each other in the closed configuration.~~

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The stand as in claim 1, wherein the rear surface of the panel comprises right and left recesses that receive said right and left support members, respectively, ~~when the support members are~~ stand is in the closed flat collapsed configuration.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The stand as in claim 1, further comprising a visual aid selected from the group consisting of: reading light, a reading magnification device, a transparent cover, and a holder for a ruler or straight edge.

11. (Currently Amended) A foldable reading stand for supporting a book or other object, the stand having a ~~closed~~ flat collapsed storage configuration as a flat panel and an ~~operational~~ set-up configuration for displaying an object in an inclined position when ~~unfolded~~, said stand comprising:

a panel having a front surface for receiving an object, a rear surface, and right and left side outer edges;

a shelf connected to said panel and pivotal to a ~~closed~~ collapsed position parallel to said panel and to an ~~operational~~ set-up position at an angle to the front surface of the panel, wherein the shelf in the ~~operational~~ set-up position is adapted to support said object in an inclined position on the panel;

two right and left support members pivotally connected to the rear surface of the panel near the right and left side outer edges, and adapted so that, when the stand is in operational ~~said~~ set-up configuration, the right and left support members extend rearward from the panel to support the panel in an inclined position and wherein front portions of the right and left support members extend underneath the shelf to hold the shelf in said ~~operational~~ set-up position, wherein each of said right and left support members comprises an edge first-protrusion extending from an edge of its respective front portion and a surface ~~second~~ protrusion extending from a side surface of its respective front portion;

wherein said shelf comprises a ~~plurality of~~ right notch and a left notches, ~~one of said right notches adapted to frictionally receiveing the first edge~~ protrusion of the respective right support member in the ~~operational set-up position~~ configuration and ~~to frictionally receiveing the second surface~~ protrusion of the respective right support member in the ~~closed collapsed position~~ configuration, so that the right support members and shelf are secured to each other when the stand is in both said flat collapsed storage configuration operational and closed said set-up configurations.

12. (Currently Amended) The stand of claim 11, wherein ~~each~~ said right and left support members ~~is~~ are pivotally attached to the rear surface of the panel, said right support member pivoting on a right pivot axis by a support member hinge that is at an angle relative to ~~a respective one of~~ said right side outer edge, and said left support member pivoting on a left pivot axis that is an angle to said left side outer edges.
13. (Currently Amended) The stand of claim 12, wherein said right and left support members are vertical when the stand is in the operational set-up configuration.
14. (Currently Amended) The stand of claim 12, wherein said right pivot axis ~~each of the support member hinges~~ is at an angle of 5 - 25 degrees from said respective one of said right side outer edge and said left pivot axis is at an angle of 5-25 degrees from said left side outer edges.
15. (Currently Amended) The stand as in claim 11, wherein the rear surface of the panel comprises right and left recesses that receive said right and left support members, respectively, when the stand is ~~support members are~~ in the closed flat collapsed storage configuration.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Original) The stand as in claim 11, further comprising a visual aid selected from the group consisting of: a reading light, a reading magnification device, a transparent cover, and a holder for a ruler or straight edge.
18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The stand as in Claim 1 that has a rectangular outer perimeter when in the flat collapsed configuration.

22. (New) The stand as in Claim 11 that has a rectangular outer perimeter when in the flat collapsed configuration.

23. (New) A foldable stand for supporting a book or other object, the stand having a flat collapsed configuration for storage, and a set-up configuration for holding an object in an inclined position, said stand comprising:

a panel having a front surface for holding an object in an inclined position, a rear surface, and right and left side outer edges;

a shelf connected to said panel and pivotal to a flat position parallel to said panel, when the stand is in said flat collapsed configuration, and pivotal to a set-up position at an angle to the front surface of the panel, when the stand is in said set-up configuration, wherein the shelf in the set-up position is adapted to support said object in the inclined position on the panel; and

right and left support members connected to the rear surface of the panel near said right and left side outer edges, respectively, the right and left support members being pivotal to fold flat against said panel, when the stand is in the flat collapsed configuration, and to pivot away from each other, when the stand is in the set-up configuration, to extend rearward from the panel and diverge from each other to support the panel in an inclined position, and wherein front portions of the right and left support members extend underneath the shelf to hold the shelf in said set-up position; and,

wherein, when the stand is in the flat collapsed configuration, a portion of each of the right and left support members contacts and is parallel to the shelf in the collapsed

position;

wherein said shelf has a right hole and a left hole, said right support member has a hole and said left support member has a hole, and wherein, when the stand is in the flat collapsed configuration, the right hole of the shelf is aligned with the hole of the right support member and the left hole of the shelf is aligned with the hole of the left support member, said holes being aligned for receiving the rings of a binder whereby the stand is stored in the binder.

24. The stand of Claim 23, wherein said shelf has a center hole between said right hole and said left hole for storing said stand in a three-ring binder.

25. The stand of Claim 23, wherein said shelf comprises a snap connection to said right and left support members, so that, when the stand is in the flat collapsed configuration, the shelf is secured to, and parallel with, said right and left support members.